GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1539
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the teacher-student ratio prescribed by the Government at primary, upper primary, high and higher secondary classes, separately;

(b) the actual teacher-student ratio prevalent in each State and Union Territory in the said classes, separately;

(c) whether there is shortage of teachers in schools which affects school results, increase the drop out rate and lead to closure of schools, etc.; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a); Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for Primary and Upper Primary Classes, the prescribed norms for teacher-student ratio is 1:40. For Secondary and Higher Secondary stages the teacher- student ratio of 1:30 is considered adequate.

(b): The State/ Union Territory and school wise teacher-student ratio as per the latest Selected Educational Statistics for the year 2004-2005 is given in Anuexure.

(c) & (d): The dropout rate for class I to V have declined from 39% in 2001-02 to 29% in 2004-05. The dropout rate at elementary level (classes I to VIII) remained as high as 50.8%, a decline of only 4.26 percentage points as compared to that in 2001-02. However, The dropout rate at Secondary level (classes I to X) remained as high as 61.9%, a decline of only 4.1 percentage points as compared to that in 2001-02. The number of primary schools increased from 6.64 lakh to 7.68 lakh, the upper primary schools from 2.20 lakh to 2.75 lakh and high/ higher schools from 1.33 lakh to 1.52 lakh between 2001-02 and 2004-05. School Education primarily comes under State Governments and the difference in student-teacher ratio across the States is mostly due to local factors. Under SSA programme til! 15.10.2007, 8.10 lakh teachers have been recruited in order to improve student-teacher ratios.